

Re-opening
for the season, 7B

Girls track
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ARCHWAY reigns. A brick archway will greet students and visitors to Farmington High as part of the school's renovation. It was approved May 31.

The school board considered dumping the \$53,000 archway, but decided, after review, it would be aesthetically pleasing for the 36-year-old building.

The \$2.7 million renovation project not only will upgrade the facade, but also double the size of the media center and add high-tech changes that'll be used throughout the district.

COMMON campus filled. The Highmeadow Common Campus elementary program is full for the 1989-90 school year.

Farmington school officials last week held an open lottery of 100 applicants to fill 15 open positions in the second and third grades, said assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele.

The alternative pilot program, which offers enrichment curriculum and incorporates gifted classes for qualifying students, will begin its second year.

QUOTE of the week

“It sounds like World War III when they're over there.”

—Hillside Estates Condominiums association president Dick Isham, about the nearby Farmington Hills police outdoor firing range. See story on page 1A.

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AND THURSDAY ISSUE

Hills calls for pulling liquor licenses

Related opinion, 16A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Results of the latest Farmington Hills police undercover liquor law crackdown have prompted the city council to ask the state Legislature to stiffen and establish minimum penalties for liquor licensees who sell alcohol to minors.

“Some of them (licensees), in or-

der to get their attention, you're going to have to be blunt,” said state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills.

The city council wants the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to suspend licenses for a minimum three days on a first violation and on subsequent violations of selling to anyone younger than 21, the state's legal drinking age. Dolan agreed to take the council's request to the state Legislature.

The city council and police Chief William Dwyer have long called for

the LOC to levy tougher penalties against liquor licensees who sell to minors. The latest request comes on the heels of the police department's fifth undercover operation June 2.

Eleven of the 33 package liquor and beer and wine dealers in Farmington Hills were cited for violating state and local laws prohibiting alcohol sales to minors. Only one store cited June 2 was not cited in previous undercover operations.

STORE OWNERS were warned of

the impending liquor crackdown, through an Observer story, just less than a week before it was conducted. “To me, it just tells me these people will continue to sell to minors,” Dwyer said last week.

The LOC is required to have a special hearing for licensees who chalk up at least three violations in 24 months. Commissioners are required to suspend or revoke the license. The number of days that licenses have been suspended has varied, depending on each each individual case,

LOC executive services director Dan Sparks said.

Many factors determine the type of penalty — fine or license suspension or revocation — that results from a violation of the state liquor laws. The maximum fine for selling to a minor or intoxicated person is \$1,000, Sparks said.

“There's no question about my support going forward with this,” councilwoman Jody Soronen said.

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Incumbents pace school board race

Ditzhazy, Cotton re-elected to board

Clarenceville,
Walled Lake results, 12A

Voting chart, 12A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Incumbent Helen Ditzhazy topped the field Monday in Farmington's annual school board election, garnering 37 percent of the vote to win her second term as a trustee.

According to unofficial vote tallies, the 62-year-old incumbent and college professor will be joined by current board president Jack Cotton, 65, who was re-elected with 32 percent of the vote.

Only 2.95 percent, or 1,554 of the

52,714 active registered voters in the Farmington school district, turned out to vote during a rainy election day Monday.

Their four-year terms will run from July 1 through June 30, 1993. Challengers Robert Ranney, 36, and John Akouri, 23, trailed the field, coming in third and fourth, respectively. Farmington Hills resident Roger Lyon received one write-in vote.

Ditzhazy, who did much door-to-door campaigning during the race, told the Observer that, if elected, this will be her last term on the board. She said in four years, it would be “someone else's turn.” She has called for better communication between the board and the administration.

SHE ALSO voiced concern with yearly budget increases in the district and with financial issues and their future effect. She called for a review of graduation requirements.

Cotton was the top voter-getter when he and Ditzhazy sought and won their first terms in 1985.

This year, the retired Farmington athletic director and travel agency owner ran his campaign on the past accomplishments of the current board. He has supported recent changes made in the district, and called for more innovative programs such as the Highmeadow Common Campus elementary school pilot.

He is also concerned with protecting the district's financial resources.

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Incumbents Helen Ditzhazy (left) and Jack Cotton greet voters outside the Farmington Training Center (Precinct 1) in Farmington Monday. They are talking to Donna Armstrong, holding her son, John, Donna's husband, Dave, and their daughter, Ann, a Longacre second grader.

Growth, noise doom firing range

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Growth and concerned neighbors are forcing the Farmington Hills police to permanently close their outdoor firing range Friday, after completing the annual two-week summer firearms qualification.

“It sounds like World War III when they're over there,” said Hillside Estates Condominiums association

president Dick Isham. “It is extremely loud, especially when they use automatic weapons. It can be dangerous.”

The more than 20-year-old firing range is surrounded by development. On the south stands the Hillside and Exotic Rubber and Plastic companies.

City-owned Heritage Park is north of the range; the Hillside condos are on the west. Residents near the 10.6-acre firing range are concerned about noise and safety.

“We'll just have to find a place to shoot larger guns. The city has grown around the firing range and

the park is near. It's no longer acceptable,” city manager William Costick said.

The firing range is owned by the Farmington YMCA, which received the land as a donation in 1986. The YMCA has allowed the city to use the property rent-free, as previous owners did.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

POLICE HAVE been more aware of residents' concerns, but have not received complaints about firearms noise and safety concerns. “We've made no official complaints. We had been told early on that it's going to close,” Isham said.

In early May, police Chief William Dwyer sent letters to some nearby residents, notifying them of the annual qualifications sessions. To minimize neighbors' inconvenience, police combined their qualifying sessions into one two-week session, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 2-16, Dwyer said.

“I'm sympathetic. The community has grown. That's why we decided to use the range for the last time,” Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

City officials don't plan to buy land elsewhere in the city for a new range. More than likely, police will contract with another law enforcement agency for a firing range. As an interim measure, there's a possibility of setting up a smaller firing range at the Department of Public Works yard on Halsted, Dwyer said.

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Farmington Hills officer Craig Hunt loads an AR-15 assault rifle as he prepares to fire on the target range.

How well do we treat our pets? Series explores animal cruelty

Annually, hundreds of animals in Wayne and Oakland counties are shot, hung, set afire and tortured. Many die as a result of the abuse.

Last year, 5,122 complaints of cruelty were filed with the Michigan Humane Society, a non-profit organization based in Detroit that maintains shelters in Westland and Auburn Hills.

In the first quarter of this year, the society has already received 1,589 cruelty complaints.

Of the total number received each year, an estimated 70 percent constitute thoughtless neglect by pet owners who fail to provide adequate shelter, food, water and medical treatment as required by state law.



In these cases, education is the best way to solve the problem, according to the five humane officers employed by the society to investigate cruelty complaints.

The remaining 30 percent of cases are violent acts visited upon helpless creatures. Many incidents are truly horrifying.

New studies suggest that cruelty to animals may set the stage for later acts of violence against people. Yesterday's child who mistreats an animal may well grow into tomorrow's adult who harms humans.

The issue will be explored in a three-part series which begins today on Page 5A. The series will examine links between animal cruelty and other criminal behavior, what is being done about it and ritualistic killing, perhaps the most chilling form of animal cruelty.

Commercial filmed in local back yard

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The ideal place to film a national Open Pit Barbecue Sauce commercial is Margo and Charles Elrschele's back yard on Macomb Street in downtown Farmington.

So said Kris Roberts, a producer with August Productions, a Farmington Hills-based company, that filmed a 30-second spot June 7 for W.B. Doner Advertising of Southfield.

The Elrscheles' home was also the site of a Manufacturers Bank of Detroit commercial last year.

“What we do is send out a location scout to take photos,” Roberts said. “We picked this one because it's a nice-looking house that is really well-put-together and quaint.

The back yard and garden are gorgeous.”

The Open Pit spot began airing June 12 in Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago. It features a regular, everyday guy barbecuing. The spot is in response to a Kraft taste test that cites their sauce as better and thicker, Roberts said.

Open Pit has several sauces, which include Original, Special Recipe Original, Hickory and Mesquite. “We're highlighting Special Recipe,” Roberts said.

AT LEAST 35 people showed up for the commercial taping, which began at 7 a.m. The Elrscheles' back yard was cleared out and three stoves were moved in, along with

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